

REMARKS

In this Amendment, claim 4 has been amended to recite --a thermosetting fluorine-containing polymer (IIa) having a crosslinkable reactive group--. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 18, lines 1-4.

Claim 5 has been amended to replace "1,4-decarboxylic acid" with --1,4-cyclohexane dicarboxylic acid--. This amendment is supported by original claim 5.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

No new matter has been added and thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Because the amendment to claim 4 simply specifies the fluorine-containing polymer as a thermosetting fluorine-containing polymer (IIa) having a crosslinkable reactive group, which is typically described in the present specification and Examples, no new issues are deemed to arise nor is further search or consideration of art necessary. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1, 4 and 5 will be all the claims pending in the application.

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Murakami et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not obvious over Murakami et al. In the present Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 2.

Although Murakami et al teaches that in the preparation of the polymer (B-1), a large number of other vinyl monomers may be used together with the (β -methyl)glycidyl group-containing vinyl monomer and the hydroxyl group-containing vinyl monomer (col. 4, lines 3-7),

Murakami et al does not disclose the specific combination of vinyl versatate and a fluorine-containing vinyl monomer.

As described in the present specification, the combination of a fluoroolefin unit and vinyl versatate unit and/or vinyl benzoate unit is a selective invention that provides unexpectedly superior results.

As shown in Table 2 of the specification, the fluorine-containing polymer (II-1) of Preparation Example 7 has Veova ® 9 (vinyl versatate) unit and the fluorine-containing polymer (II-2) of Preparation Example 8 has VBz (vinyl benzoate) unit. These fluorine-containing polymers ((II-1) and (II-2)) are comparable with the fluorine-containing polymer (II-3) of Preparation Example 9 which has EVE (ethyl vinyl ether) unit instead of Veova ® 9 unit and VBz unit.

The effects of the use of vinyl versatate unit are demonstrated by comparing the results of Example 1 with Example 17 and Example 2 with Example 18 (Table 4). For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have herein summarized the results in the following table. As clearly shown, the use of vinyl versatate unit unexpectedly improves appearance, gloss, weather resistance and anti-blocking property.

	Ex. 1	Ex. 17	Ex. 2	Ex. 18
Polyester Polymer	I-1 (41.8)	I-1 (41.8)	I-1 (23.0)	I-1 (23.0)
Fluoropolymer	II-1 (Veova 9) (17.9)	II-3 (EVE) (17.9)	II-1 (Veova 9) (34.5)	II-3 (EVE) (34.5)

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Appearance	A	B	B	C
Gloss	88	70	80	68
Weather resistance	80	65	90	75
Anti-blocking	A	B	A	B

The effects of the use of vinyl benzoate unit are demonstrated by comparing the results of Example 3 (Table 3) with Example 17 (Table 4) and Example 4 (Table 3) with Example 18 (Table 4). For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have herein summarized the results in the following table. As clearly shown, the use of vinyl benzoate unit unexpectedly improves appearance, gloss, weather resistance and anti-blocking property.

	Ex. 3	Ex. 17	Ex. 4	Ex. 18
Polyester Polymer	I-1 (41.0)	I-1 (41.8)	I-1 (22.2)	I-1 (23.0)
Fluoropolymer	II-2 (VBz) (17.6)	II-3 (EVE) (17.9)	II-2 (VBz) (33.3)	II-3 (EVE) (34.5)
Appearance	A	B	B	C
Gloss	89	70	77	68
Weather resistance	82	65	89	75
Anti-blocking	A	B	A	B

In view of the above, the present invention is not obvious over Murakami et al, and thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

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At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Foukes et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,536,785).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 5 as amended are not obvious over Foukes et al.

The flow control agent described in Foukes et al is a non-functional fluorinated polyester (column 7, lines 38-47).

On the other hand, as mentioned above, in this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite a thermosetting fluorine-containing polymer (IIa) having a crosslinkable reactive group. As described on page 18 of the present specification, lines 1-4, the use of the thermosetting fluorine-containing polymer (IIa) improves compatibility with the polyester (polymer (I)) and weather resistance.

Accordingly, the present invention is not obvious over Foukes et al. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection over Foukes et al.

At page 3 of the Office Action, claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

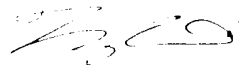
Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot, because in this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 2.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 4, and 5 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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